

What is Wraparound?

Wraparound is an intensive community-based services and support effort utilizing the “Wraparound” service planning process to design and deliver strength-based needs-driven individualized services. Wraparound is designed to focus on children and adolescents who have a serious emotional disturbance and are either at imminent risk of out-of-home placement or are returning from out-of-home placement.

Wraparound utilizes a child-focused, family-centered practice model aimed at enhancing family (e.g., natural, extended, foster, adoptive) strengths and resources in order to minimize risk, ensure safety, improve functioning, and assist and support families in caring for their children. The underlying principles inherent in the family centered model include a focus on service practices which:

- are consumer(family)-driven
- enhance family and child competency
- maximize family voice, choice and control in decision-making about care
- build on family, child, and community strengths
- are solution-focused
- are family and community focused
- emphasize parent-professional partnership

Best Practice Principles

- Ensuring the provision of community-based services and supports.
- Making a commitment to the provision of least restrictive service.
- Ensuring family-centeredness by partnering with families in building response.
- Embracing consumer driven services by ensuring access and voice for parents and children in the design, delivery, and evaluation of services.
- Building on family and child strengths in developing response.
- Ensuring comprehensive life-domain needs assessment and planning.
- Individualizing services and supports to the unique needs of each child and family.
- Ensuring the provision of culturally proficient services by tailoring response to family culture, values, norms, strengths, and preferences.
- Building on the use of naturally occurring community and family supports and resources.
- Ensuring flexibility in location, time, planning, service response, and funding.
- Making a commitment to unconditional service planning and provision.
- Ensuring service planning is child and family team-based, and inclusive of natural/informal support persons.

What is Wraparound? (cont.)

- Establishing community wide involvement in service design and system evolution, including parents, mental health, juvenile justice, education, social welfare, cultural leaders, housing, civic groups, law enforcement, business leaders, and other key stakeholders in the community
- Ensuring measurable accountability and outcomes driven individualized service plans.

Evolution of Practice Principles

Wraparound represents an evolution in the practice of human service professionals. It is characterized by a shift from traditional professionally-centered to family-centered practice.

Shift in Practice Paradigm

Professional-Centered		Family-Centered
Experts determine needs and prescribe Services	-to-	Families identify needs and have a voice in determining strategies
Low level of family decision making	-to-	High level of family decision making
Families as deficit	-to-	Families as capable
Service aimed at correcting deficit	-to-	Service aimed at strengthening families
Focus on removing problems	-to-	Focus on enhancing competencies
Fit family to professional service (what we have available)	-to-	We tailor and create services to the uniqueness of each child and family
Client focus (you need us)	-to-	Partnership (we are in this together)
Services	-to-	Supports
Relatively fixed professional roles and service provision (we only do certain things, in certain ways, and at certain times)	-to-	Flexible roles and service provision (we tailor our approach to your needs)

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